

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, paragraph 6 on page 4 has been amended to correct a typographical error; paragraph 4 on page 5 has been added for consistency with the specification and claims; the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 has been amended for consistency with the specification and claims. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 15-16 are currently cancelled without prejudice and may form part of the basis for a continuation application.

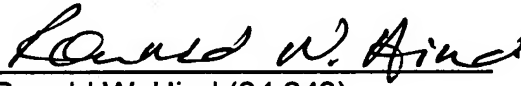
Claims 3, 8-14 and 17-18 remain in the application.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 10-14 are allowed and that claims 3, 8, 9, 17 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. These claims have been rewritten in independent form in the manner required and each recites that the holding means bonding the core to the casing is the molded core binder. Accordingly, claims 3, 8, 9, 17 and 18 are believed allowable.

Applicant appreciated the courtesy of the examiner in discussing this matter of a continuation briefly during the telephone call on September 26, 2003.

In view of the above, all of the presently submitted claims are believed to be allowable and a formal Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ronald W. Hind", is written over a horizontal line.

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